

## INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The German Society of Biophysics held its third annual convention since the end of hostilities in Mosbach (US Zone) from [REDACTED] the 25X1C first two conventions took place in the same city on 1 January 1947 and Easter 1948. The society was founded in 1942 as the "Deutsche Biophysikalische Gesellschaft" with Prof. Dr. Boris Rajewsky as First Chairman. After 1945, the society continued to exist without performing the formal acts required for legalizing it. During the Easter convention 1948, it was decided to re-found the society legally and formally, but the members of its board of chairmen failed to do so. It was therefore decided during the convention from 19 to 23 October to remedy this situation in the shortest possible delay by securing Allied approval, if required, and by complying with the formalities of the German law. The society in its present form has not changed its pre-1945 membership requirements: It includes members from all German zones.
2. There is, in addition to the above-mentioned society, a Göttinger Gesellschaft für Biophysik, headed by Professors Hans Kopfermann and H. Martius. The Göttingen society has a larger variety in membership and objectives and is mainly engaged in organizing lectures on a wide variety of subjects. Rajewsky's society, however, stresses a membership which is rather limited in numbers but well-defined as to its fields of interest. As Rajewsky remarked during the last convention, the Göttingen society is considered to be a pool for all those biologists who do not fit in the sharply-defined frame of his society. The last convention was, in fact, more of a working academic conference than a convention; organizational matters were hardly touched.
3. Prof. Dr. Boris Rajewsky, present rector of Frankfurt University and Director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Biophysics in Frankfurt, has kept his post as First Chairman of the society. Second Chairman is Dr. Hans Friedrich-Freksa of the KWI for Bio-Chemistry in Tübingen and editor of the Zeitschrift für Naturforschung, Tübingen; Dr. Michael Schön, Mosbach, lecturer at Heidelberg University and head of the Osrarn Research Institute in Mosbach is treasurer. Other members of the board of chairmen are: a. Dr. Muth of the Rajewsky Institute; b. Prof. Butenandt, Nobel Prize winner and Director of the KWI for Bio-Chemistry, Tübingen; c. Prof. R. Rompe of the Soviet Zone Ministry for Education and Director of the Second Institute of Physics, Berlin.
4. During this year's convention, Prof. Kratky, of Graz, Austria, and Prof. Dessauer, formerly of Frankfurt, now in Fribourg (Switzerland), were present as guests

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from abroad. The Soviet Zone delegated the following persons: Prof. R. Rompe, Prof. Walter Friedrich, Rector of Humboldt University, Berlin, Prof. Friedrich Mögliche, department head in the Academy Institute in Berlin-Buch, and Prof. Schreiber, Director of the Institute for Radiation Research, Berlin. Among the estimated forty-five participants and in addition to the persons already mentioned, the following well-known persons were also present: a. Prof. Bonhoeffer, Director of the Max Planck Institute for Physico-Chemistry, Göttingen; b. Prof. Georg Melchers of the Institute of Botany and the KWI for Biology, both in Tübingen; c. Dr. Hammerling, Director of the KWI for Oceanic Biology, Wilhelmshaven; d. Prof. Kautsky, Director of the Institute for Silicate Chemistry, Marburg.

5. The convention dealt exclusively with the topic of "Structure of Albumen".

- (a) Dr. Dannenberg, of the Tübingen KWI for Bio-Chemistry, started the convention with a survey about recent research in several countries, among them the USA, on Ultra-Violet Absorption of Albumen, dealing particularly with the absorption spectra of amino-acids as a means of identification of albumen structure.
- (b) Dr. Schramm, also of the Tübingen KWI, and like Dr. Dannenberg a Butenandt disciple, followed with a lecture on Virus Nucleo-Proteides and expanded on the types of virus species. There are, according to him, several kinds of virus structure; they are of a great variety in dimensions with continuous transitions to bacteria. He also dealt with the biological functions, in virus, of nucleo-proteides.
- (c) Part of the convention was given over to short communications of several scientists about their recent research. Dr. Isolde Hauser, department head of the Max Planck Institute for Medical Research, Heidelberg, dealt with Hit-Theoretical Research (sic) of some Photo-Chemical Reactions, treating particularly photo-induced cis-transitions of organic molecules. It is possible, she developed, to differentiate between transitions caused by several quanta and those caused by one quantum only. Dr. Wallenfels, co-operator of the Albumen Research Institute in Tutzing and affiliated with the Boehringer firm in Mannheim, reported on Indication Methods for Amino-Acids. Dr. Duspiva, former assistant at the Institute for Zoology at Heidelberg University, now with Dr. Wallenfels, dealt with Micro-Biological Indication Methods for Albumen, stressing particularly, in connection with recent USA research, the chemical function of genes in yeast cells (neurospora). He reported that he has developed a highly sensitive micro-analysis procedure for the indication of amino-acids, permitting, for example, the indication of one billionth gram of tryptophane. Prof. Kratky, of Graz, though not on the agenda of this part of the convention, intervened with a lecture about recent research carried out in his institute, concerning Additional Absorption (Zusatzabsorption). Through enolization (transformation of a CO-group into a COH-group) of polypeptide chains either by mechanical treatment, as for example stretching and rolling, or by chemical treatment, absorption spectra in the region of 2,500 Angstrom are caused to appear. In Kratky's institute, such spectra were investigated for silk fibroin and collagen. They were also found with the tobacco virus - as Kratky proved with photographic diagrams previously used by Dannenberg in his lecture - by Butenandt, Scheibe and Freksa without being recognized by them as additional absorption spectra.
- (d) Prof. Kratky also gave a scheduled lecture about Structural Investigation of Albumen with X-Rays. He dealt particularly with the structure of silk fibroin on the basis of his X-ray research. According to him, he has succeeded in developing an experimental method to prove roentgenographically the existence of large-order periods (Grossperiodizitäten) in fiber structure; the order of the periods is around 300 Angstrom. He also found sub-periods which can definitely be associated with amino-acids. Bergmann's law, he developed, alleging that the number of amino-acids in the albumen molecule is represented as a product of the form  $2^{n.3^m}$ , is actually not valid; Kratky found for example 11 and 20 to be the number of amino-acids per period. He not only illustrated his point with his investigation of silk fibroin but also with his investigation of collagen. He also reported on American research, done mainly by Perutz, on the structure of haemoglobin molecules.

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- (c) Dr. O. Westphal and Prof. H. Schmidt of the Behring work in Marburg gave a survey on "Antikörper, Genose und Spezifitätsproblem".
6. At the end of the convention, the members of the board of chairman who were present decided to convene in Frankfurt during November 1949, at a date to be specified shortly, for the purpose of settling the legal status of the society.

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